

pg 112 "Auntie Salt Nannies boys
Niece for was her appropriate"



MEMORIAL BRIDGE — Karen Hanson Armstrong, niece of Pfc. Jack G. Hanson, set the wheels in motion

which will result in this bridge's being named in honor of Jackson County's only Congressional Medal of

Honor winner. The bridge over the Escatawpa River will be completed this year.

Press Plus Photo/Jerry Moulder

Niece felt naming

Karen Hanson Armstrong of Escatawpa, niece of Korean war hero Jack G. Hanson, and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hanson, got the ball rolling which will result in naming the new bridge over the Escatawpa River in honor of the Medal of Honor winner.

"Since the foot of the bridge (Escatawpa side) is where uncle Jack lived and grew up, I thought it would be appropriate," she said. "I contacted the American Legion (Jackson County Post 160) and they took it from there."

Then-Legion Commander Joe Lee appointed a

Pg 212

bridge for war

committee composed of Sam Gatlin, Harry Kelly and Jerry Moulder. The same committee was reappointed by Dan Gunther, the present commander.

"We prepared a resolution and carried it to the American Legion Mid-Winter Conference in Jackson last January," Gatlin said. "It was passed and the adjutant was directed to take it to the Legislature."

In the meantime, the local post delivered copies of the resolution to Cong. Trent Lott in Washington and to South Mississippi Highway Commissioner

hero appropriate

Bob Joiner, who exchanged letters of agreement.

"Sen. Louis Fortenberry sponsored it in the Senate and notified us it was passed without opposition," Gatlin said. Sen. Stephen Hale co-sponsored the measure.

Gatlin said the proposal has been discussed with the Moss Point Board of Aldermen and Doug Holden, president of the Jackson County Board of Supervisors.

Gatlin hopes the bridge can be completed in time so that dedication services can be held on Memorial Day, May 30.

2-A—Mississippi Press Friday, April 21, 1989



UNVEILING—Members of Medal of Honor winner Jack G. Hanson's family are shown with Southern District Highway Commissioner Ronnie Shows (left) and American Legion Post 160 Commander Bill White at ceremonies Thursday. Also shown are Hanson's sister, Mrs. Eran Rabby, and brothers (from left) Fred, Carlton

Press Photos/Jerry Moulder

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Press Photos/Jerry Moulder

Escatawpa bridge dedicated

Named in honor of Moss Point Korean hero

By TOM DONNELLY

Mississippi Press Staff

The new Mississippi 613 bridge spanning the Escatawpa River was officially named for Medal of Honor winner Army Pfc. Jack G. Hanson Monday afternoon under a sunny sky at the south end of the bridge.

The large crowd that turned out for the Memorial Day dedication was made up of people from almost every station in life. They came to pay tribute to Hanson, who grew up in Escatawpa near the site of the new bridge. He was killed in Korea on June 7, 1951.



Pfc. Jack Hanson

Hanson was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously. He is one of only eight Mississippians to have ever received the award.

U.S. Rep. Trent Lott, R.-Miss., said, "We seek peace but if we are to have peace we must have strength."

Lott lauded Hanson and countless other servicemen who sacrificed their lives in past wars on foreign battlefields to keep America free.

At the same time, he renewed his commitment to the men and women who are presently serving in the armed forces, as well as military veterans still living.



Staff Photo/Jerry Moulder

SALUTING OLD GLORY and paying tribute to Medal of Honor winner Pfc. Jack G. Hanson of Escatawpa, for whom the new Mississippi 613 bridge over the Escatawpa River was named during Memorial Day dedication ceremonies in Moss Point, were (from left) Supervisor President Doug Holden, Moss Point Mayor

Louis Jackson, American Legion Post 160 Commander Dan Gunther and Congressman Trent Lott. The bridge was named for Hanson who was killed in 1951 during the Korean Conflict. Hanson, an Army machine gunner, sacrificed his life so that his comrades could regroup and fight off an enemy attack.

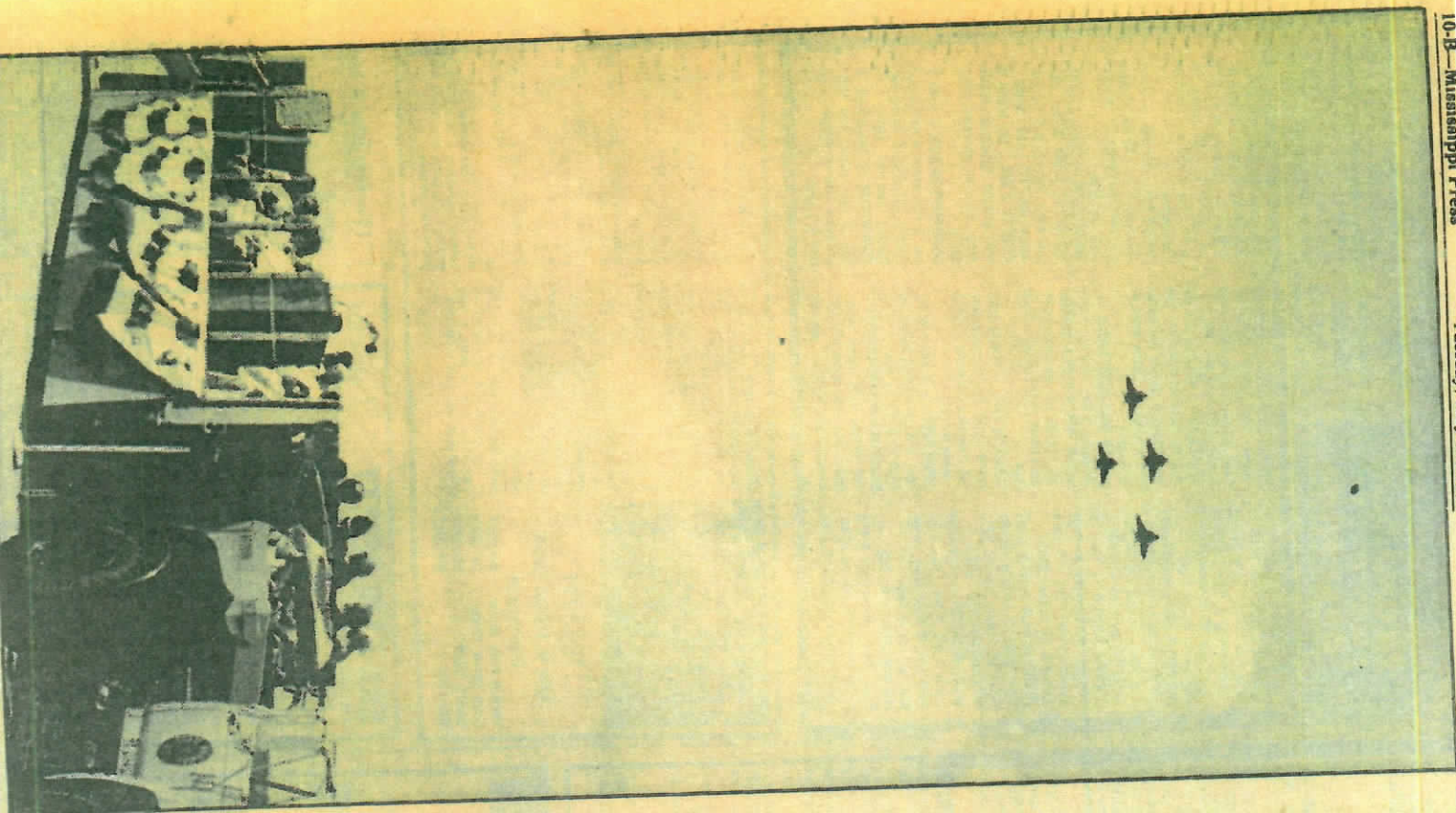
Part of his commitment to present members of the armed forces is to find out "why didn't they shoot down that Iraqi plane? Why weren't they able to defend themselves?"

He said his commitment involves asking for answers and insuring that young Americans will not be sent into situations that could needlessly cost them their lives.

Iraq officials have quoted the Iraqi fighter pilot who attacked the USS Stark, killing 37 sailors, as claiming he did not receive any signals from the frigate

See BRIDGEPage 10-B▶

Page 1/4



Some 500 persons attend dedication of of Escatawpa bridge Monday

► Bridge

From Page 1

before he fired missiles that punched a gaping hole in the ship's port side and triggered a devastating blaze.

Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger has said every U. S. ship in the Persian Gulf has a weapons system "available and ready to defeat any threat. And they can do it."

Lott recalled meeting with a Moss Point delegation several years ago about the need for a new bridge over the Escatawpa River. He said he referred them to Highway Commissioner Bob Joiner.

"I knew if there was a way to get done Bob Joiner would do it."



Staff Photos/Jerry Moulder

noting he also assisted him. He said he and Joiner have worked well together over the years.

"I do think we have made transportation a little better in southern Mississippi. I'm not politicking; I'm just talking results."

Lott said the bridge is a symbol. "We are going to have homeporting, and we are going to build more ships in Pascagoula."

Joiner said he and Lott have been close friends for more than 20 years — dating back to the days when Lott was administrative assistant for former U.S. Rep. William Colmer of Pascagoula, a Democrat powerful House Rules Commit-

tee. Waynesboro, said Lott continually aided him in gaining federal funds for numerous municipal projects.

Moss Point businessman Bert Wood and School Superintendent Dr. C.H. Cronin, he said, told him in February of 1982 the old bridge was "about to fall and economically it would sever Moss Point and Escatawpa."

Joiner outlined the sequence of steps he took with limited funds until he ran out of available monies.

He said the highway department had \$6 million in a fund designated for a project in another part of the state.

A telephone call to the top official of the Federal Highway Administration in Washington,

had known for many years," said Delmas. "I went by that monument each day (of his tour in Korea)."

Delmas had gone to school with Hanson's brother, Carl, during childhood days.

Col. Delmas was so moved by Hanson's Army record that he contacted another childhood friend, Moss Point businessman Nolan Smith, and the two worked for years to gain recognition for Hanson.

"I can think of no finer tribute to this hero from Escatawpa. Jack, I salute you," said Delmas, as he snapped a salute and walked away from the podium.

The Rev. Leo Livaudais Jr. of the Reorganized Latter Day Saints Church, Escatawpa, said in a closing prayer, "I knew him

Jets fly over bridge to begin dedication ceremonies

Joiner immediately went to work on the project, Lott said.

Joiner, then mayor of



Hanson family stands to receive small plaques

Bob Joiner unveils bridge plaque

THE ESCATAWPA RIVER BRIDGE WAS POSTHUMOUSLY PRESENTED TO JACK G. HANSON OF ESCATAWPA, MISSISSIPPI, FOR HIS BRAVERY IN COMBAT DURING THE KOREAN WAR. HE WAS KILLED IN ACTION ON JUNE 7, 1950, WHILE SERVING AS A PRIVATE FIRST CLASS IN THE 7TH INFANTRY HEADQUARTERS.

DEDICATED MAY 25, 1964
JACK G. HANSON
MEMORIAL BRIDGE

Official of the Federal Highway Administration in Washington, D.C., proved fruitless. He was quickly told that designated funds could not be transferred from one project to another.

He immediately called Lott and asked: "What can we do?"

The following morning the FHA official called Joiner: "I reviewed the rules and I find that you can transfer designated funds."

Joiner said Hanson "ought to have been recognized a long time ago."

Youngsters today need heroes to use as role models. "We need people like Pvt. Jack Hanson to hold up to our kids."

Joiner praised the Moss Pointers, the bridge committee of the American Legion, Post 160, Pascagoula, and others for their unified efforts which resulted in construction of the bridge and its dedication to Hanson.

Lt. Col. Harold Jones (ret.) of Moss Point read the Army's citation which outlined Hanson's gallantry in action.

Jones served in the same outfit with Hanson in Korea. Jones became emotional as he recalled an officer telling him of a young soldier from Moss Point who had given his life that others might live.

Another Moss Point native, Lt. Col. Matt O. Delmas (ret.), who now lives in Texas, first served in Korea 37 years ago, but first saw the Army's monument to Hanson near the 7th Infantry Headquarters in Korea when he returned for another tour of duty in late 1964.

He said the Army had dedicated a gymnasium-sports center building in memory of Hanson's outstanding gallantry. "He was a young fellow that I

Saints Church, Escatawpa, said in a closing prayer, "I knew him from the day he was born until he went into service. He wouldn't harm anyone," but said Hanson's parents had taught him "what his responsibility as to this nation were."

Former Supervisor President Edward A. Khayat of Moss Point acted as spokesman for the Hanson family. He expressed their gratitude for the recognition.

Khayat accompanied Hanson's parents to Washington, D.C., when they accepted the Medal of Honor from the Army for their son posthumously.

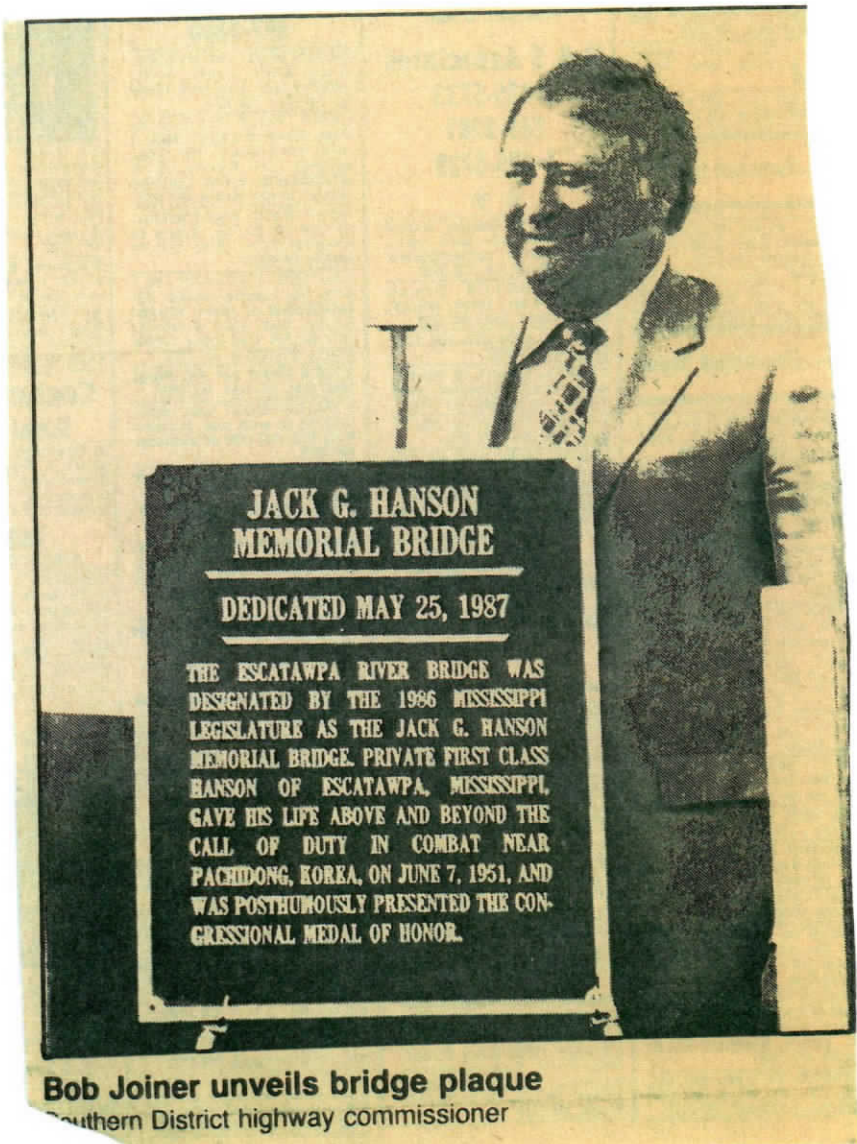
Joiner, Khayat and other speakers pointed out acquisition of the bridge and naming it for Hanson represented the efforts of several groups, including MPAC, the bridge committee of the American Legion, Post 160 (to name the bridge for Hanson) and Delmas and Smith.

Other speakers included Pascagoula Mayor Dale Richardson; Supervisor President Doug Holder; Commander Dan Gunther, American Legion Post 160, and area clergymen the Rev. John H. Williams, Dr. Allen Johnson and the Rev. James F. Coleman.

Moss Point Mayor Louis Jackson was master of ceremonies and the program got under way with four jets from the Air National Guard base in Meridian flying over the scene.

The Keesler Air Force Color Guard and base band also participated in the dedication.

Joiner unveiled the plaque which will go on the bridge and also presented each member of the Hanson family with a miniature of the plaque.



Bob Joiner unveils bridge plaque
Southern District highway commissioner

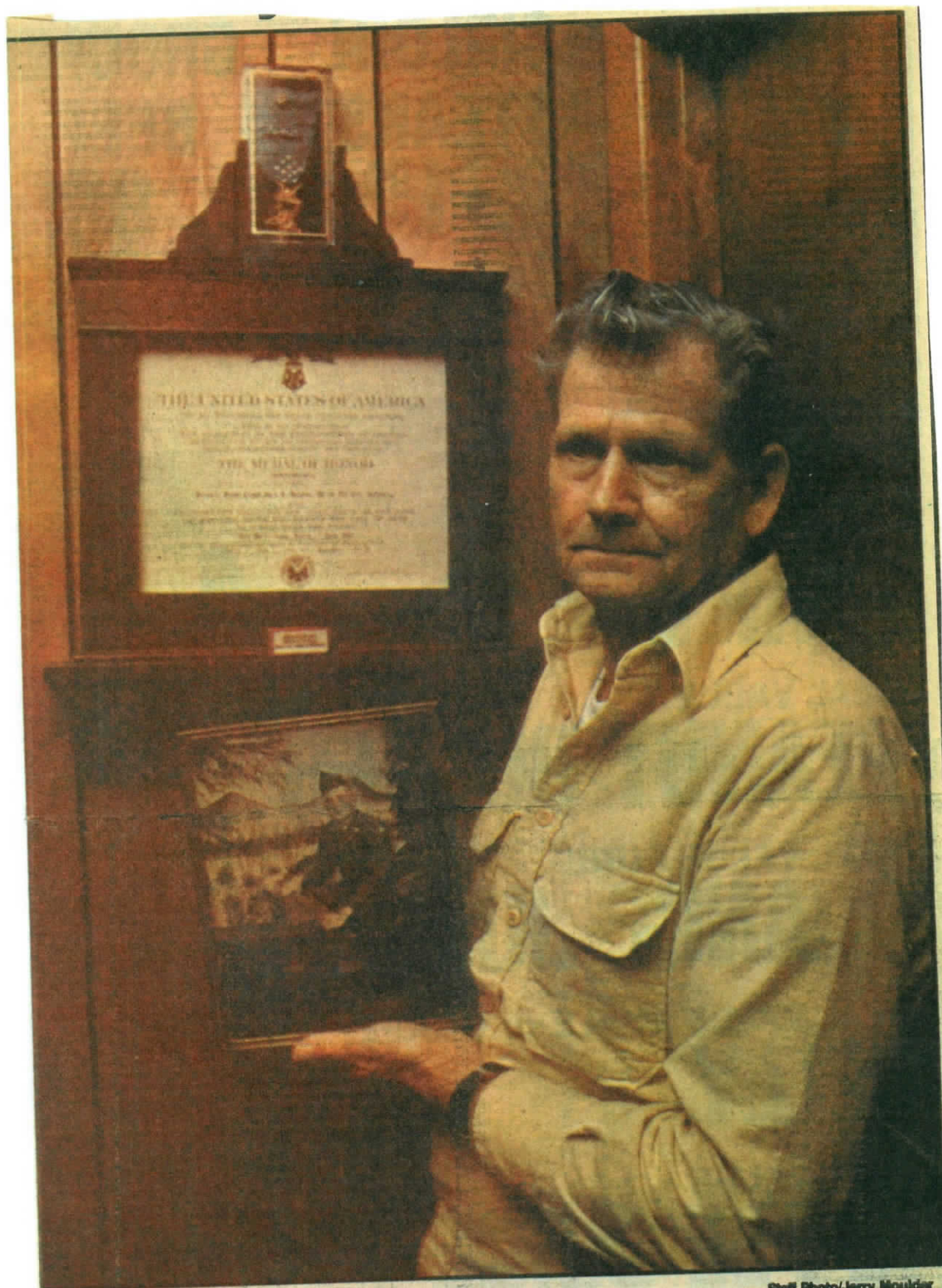
PS 464

Killed in Korean Conflict

Bridge to carry name

By DON BROADUS
Mississippi Press Staff

of county medal winner



Pg 1/3

EDAL OF HONOR — The Congressional Medal of Honor awarded to Pfc. Jack G. Hanson, who was killed in Korea on June 7, 1951, is displayed, along with the

Staff Photo/Jerry Moulder
citation signed by President Harry S. Truman, in the home of his brother, Lonnie Hanson, who is holding a picture of the war hero.

Special supplement to Wednesday,
January 14, 1987, Mississippi Press

Killed in Korean Conflict

Bridge to carry name

By DON BROADUS
Mississippi Press Staff

of county medal winner

There is a barracks named in his honor at the Army Infantry Center in Fort Benning, Ga., and a theater honors him with his name at Fort Ord, Calif.

But Pfc. Jack G. Hanson, one of only eight Mississippians to win the Congressional Medal of Honor since 1863, has gone largely without honor in his native Jackson County.

That oversight will be corrected sometime this year when the new bridge over the Escatawpa River is dedicated. It will be known as the Jack G. Hanson Memorial Bridge, according to an act of the 1986 Legislature.

Hanson, a kid of 19, gave his life for his country and fellow soldiers defending a hill in Korea on June 7, 1951. The Congressional Medal of Honor, the nation's highest honor for military service, was awarded posthumously to his family at a ceremony in Washington.

"He was not a person you'd think would stand up and fight like he did," said his sister, Eran Rabby of Escatawpa. "He wasn't scary but he was a humble person. He was a good person, really easy-going."

Hanson is also remembered as "an easy-going kid" by his brother, Lonnie Hanson of Escatawpa, a Thiokol Chemical employee. "I

can't remember ever seeing him mad. If he was ever in any trouble, I don't know about it."

The son of the late Charles F. and Carrie Hanson, Jack grew up in Escatawpa, attending the first 10 grades of school in Escatawpa and the last two years of high school in Moss Point. He attended Escatawpa Baptist Church regularly and was a member of the church.

"He was typical boy," said Mrs. Rabby. "He liked what all boys like, sports, hunting and fishing."

Lonnie said his brother did not participate in athletics because his parents were afraid he would be injured. "He loved to hunt and fish and there was usually a pack of dogs following him. Dogs loved him."

After graduating from high school, Jack signed on as a crewman aboard a tugboat. He rode the tug to Galveston, Texas, but was laid off his job. He joined the Army in Houston.

"Maybe that's the reason Mississippi never really recognized what he did," said Lonnie, who was in the Merchant Marines at the time. "When he was killed, he was listed as being from Houston."

The Korean War was raging when Jack enlisted and he soon found himself in the middle of the fighting. He survived only about a month.

What happened on that hill near Pachidong, Korea, in the early morning hours of June 7, 1951, is somewhat a matter of speculation, as is just what inside Jack G. Hanson called out bravery far beyond the call of duty.

The official Army version follows:

"Private First Class Jack G. Hanson, Infantry, United States Army, a machine gunner with 1st Platoon, Company F, 31st Infantry Regiment, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty in action against an armed enemy of the United Nations near Pachidong, Korea, on 7 June 1951.

"The company, in defensive positions, on two strategic hills separated by a wide saddle, was ruthlessly attacked at approximately 0300 hours, the brunt of which centered on the approach to the divide within range of Private Hanson's machine gun.

"In the initial phase of the action four riflemen were wounded and evacuated and the numerically superior enemy, advancing under cover of darkness, infiltrated and posed an imminent threat to the security of the command post and weapons platoon. Upon orders to move to key terrain above and to the right of Private Hanson's position, he voluntarily remained to provide protective fire for the withdrawal.

"Subsequent to the retiring elements fighting a rearguard action to the new location, it was learned that Private Hanson's assistant gunner and three riflemen had been wounded and crawled to safety and that he was maintaining a lone-man defense.

"After the 1st Platoon reorganized, counterattacked and resecured its original positions at approximately 0530 hours, Private Hanson's body was found lying in front of his emplacement, his machine gun ammunition

See HANSON Page 4 ►



WAR HERO — Pfc. Jack G. Hanson, Jackson County's only Congressional Medal of Honor winner and one of only eight Mississippians to be awarded the Medal of Honor, was killed in Korea on June, 5, 1951. The new bridge over the Escatawpa River will bear his name.

Pg 2/3

Hanson

From Page 1

expended, his empty pistol in his right hand and a machete with blood on the blade in his left hand and approximately 22 enemy dead lay in the wake of his action.

"Private Hanson's consummate valor, inspirational conduct and willing self-sacrifice enabled the company to contain the enemy and regain the commanding ground, reflecting lasting glory on himself and the noble traditions of the military service."

Hanson's parents and other family members traveled to Washington, where the medal was presented, along with a document signed by President Truman, and to the dedication ceremonies at Fort Benning and Fort Ord.

"I never knew the Army could treat anyone as well as they treated us," Lonnie said. He added that he was told the National Guard Armory in Pascagoula was named in honor of his brother.

Sgt. John Carver of the 890th Engineers, Pascagoula National Guard, said he wrote to Jackson for confirmation of the armory's name several months ago but has not received a reply. "When an armory is named for someone, there's usually a plaque with his name on it," Carver said. "There's no plaque here."

Col. Harold Jones, commander of the 890th when the armory was dedicated in the early 1960s, confirmed that it was, indeed, named in honor of Jack Hanson, "but someone in Jackson didn't like the idea because he wasn't National Guard and they disregarded the whole thing. It was nothing but politics. I always felt bad about that."

"That's wonderful," Jones said when told the new bridge would be named in Hanson's honor.

Jones was in Korea when Hanson was killed.

"I was in the same outfit and not more than two miles from him when he was killed but I didn't know about it until two weeks later," Jones said. "Some infantry officer told me about how a kid from Moss Point had saved his unit by holding the point."

Jones said he never saw Hanson in Korea but had known him as a kid.

Motorists driving north across the new high rise bridge will be able to see for several miles. It is the area where Jack Hanson grew up, hunted in the marshes and fished along the banks of the Escatawpa and Pascagoula rivers.

Pg 3/3



PARENTS OF JACK HANSON, KOREAN WAR HERO FOR WHOM THE NEW NATIONAL Guard armory will be named, are shown above witnessing ground-breaking ceremonies Sunday with men of three Pas Guard units participating pictured in the background. They are Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hanson, Escatawpa. Their son is the only Countian to win the Medal of Honor which was awarded after he was killed in action while serving with a combat infantry division. (Photo by Parsley)